

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

IN HONOR OF THE LIFE OF CHIEF
SHAWN BABENDURE

HON. KEVIN BRADY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 22, 2020

Mr. BRADY. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor the life and service of Shawn Babendure, a husband, father, coach, U.S. Army veteran and District Chief of the Spring, Texas Fire Department who tragically passed away this week much too young and far too early.

A native Texan, born and raised in Houston, Shawri leaves a legacy of a lifetime of service to his community and his country which began when Shawn joined the Champions Fire Department in 1990 while attending Cypress Creek High School.

His service continued when he enlisted in the United States Army in 1993. He served honorably and well for nearly four years as a Communications Repair Specialist with the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment at Fort Irwin, California, the Army's National Training Center. He distinguished himself as an expert marksman and earned his paratrooper wings. He was awarded the National Defense Service Medal, the Good Conduct Medal, the Army Achievement Medal, and the Army Commendation Medal for his service.

Shortly after his military service, Shawn earned his Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Houston. Shawn worked in the financial services industry where he served as Vice President of Wealth Management for a global wealth management firm, a position he still held at the time of his death.

In 2007, Shawn chose to serve his community once again and returned to public service as a fireman at the Spring Fire Department. Shawn's work ethic and professionalism were evidenced by his promotion to positions of increasing responsibility at the Spring Fire Department where he impressively earned more than ten professional certificates for every facet of fire, rescue and emergency service and rose in rank from fireman to District Chief.

Shawn's love for his community and his contagious laughter were hallmarks of his personality and his service and he passed on his care and compassion for others by training and mentoring the next generation of firefighters.

I join the entire Spring community in honoring Chief Babendure's lifetime of service and join his wife, Jessica, and their children, Sophia and Harrison, in mourning their loss. Chief Babendure will be deeply mourned and greatly missed.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RICHARD HUDSON

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 22, 2020

Mr. HUDSON. Madam Speaker, I was unknowingly exposed to someone who later tested positive for Coronavirus. Out of an abundance of caution and for the health and well-being of my colleagues, I am in self-quarantine until Thursday, July 23, 2020 at 12:01 a.m. As such, I had to miss this vote series.

Had I been present, I would have voted NAY on Roll Call No. 139; NAY on Roll Call No. 140; NAY on Roll Call No. 141; NAY on Roll Call No. 142; YEA on Roll Call No. 143; NAY on Roll Call No. 144; NAY on Roll Call No. 145; NAY on Roll Call No. 146; NAY on Roll Call No. 147; NAY on Roll Call No. 148; NAY on Roll Call No. 149; NAY on Roll Call No. 150; YEA on Roll Call No. 151; and YEA on Roll Call No. 152.

WILLIAM M. (MAC) THORNBERRY
NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2021

SPEECH OF

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 20, 2020

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in support of the fiscal year 2021 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA). I would like to start by thanking Chairman SMITH, Ranking Member THORNBERRY, and the House Armed Services Committee staff who have worked many long nights putting together this year's NDAA. The bill that is before the House is a good bill and I encourage my colleagues to support its passage.

As the Chairman of the Readiness Subcommittee, I believe the bill upholds our responsibility to provide congressional oversight of and support to the sustainment, logistics, infrastructure, and readiness of our military. I'd like to take a moment and thank my staff for their tireless work—the Readiness Subcommittee staff, Brian Garrett, Jeanine Womble, Melanie Harris, Jay Vallario, John Muller, Dave Sienicki, and Sean Falvey, and my personal staff, Bradley Bottoms, Betsy Thompson, Marcus Jones, and Danusia Hubah. I am proud of the Readiness Subcommittee's contribution to this year's bill and I'd like to highlight the following provisions.

The Readiness portion of the bill continues to emphasize the need to address vulnerabilities in installation and energy resiliency, both in response to climate change and to ensure the Department can continue to operate when fuel supplies and utilities are disrupted. The bill:

requires the Department to report on efforts to consider fuel consumption, distribution, and

logistics and the steps being taken to decrease consumption of fossil fuels by 30 percent to reduce the number of resupply convoys and oilers required in a contested environment;

requires the Department to institute energy metering on critical military facilities to assess their energy requirements and to ensure resilient power sources for these facilities.

strengthens an existing preference for the purchase of electric or hybrid vehicles for official business on military installations; and

requires a report on the implementation of provisions from last year's NDAA to include installation master planning, updates to building codes, sea-level rise modeling, and climate assessment tools.

Last year's NDAA made sweeping reforms in response to concerns that courageous military families raised regarding the management, oversight, and condition of military family housing. This year, we pick up where we left off. The bill:

requires a report on known environmental hazards in government-owned housing and requires the Department to report on the feasibility of standardizing privatized housing performance metrics; and

requires partners to put funding of maintenance and recapitalization of housing units ahead of fees that enrich corporate management in all future and renegotiated privatized housing agreements.

Similarly, we build on previous efforts to address PFAS contamination around military installations. The bill:

requires the Department of Defense to notify the congressional defense committees when there has been an uncontrolled release of a PFAS-containing firefighting agent that may impact human health or the environment;

requires the Department of Defense to publish on a public website the results of drinking and ground water PFAS testing conducted on military installations or former defense sites;

makes technical corrections to ensure all National Guard installations are eligible for funding for PFAS remediation in our National Guard communities; and

requires the Department to survey and report on technologies that will help facilitate the on-time phase-out of PFAS containing firefighting agents.

While the Department of Defense talks a lot about modernization and development of new capabilities, we must ensure that the appropriate focus remains on the sustainment of these weapon systems and the logistics required to move and supply them in a conflict. To that end, the bill:

requires the Department to examine and periodically report on the sustainment and logistics requirements, gaps, and mitigations necessary to support force structure, power projection, and other elements of the national defense strategy;

helps ensure Congress continues to receive timely and relevant information regarding both

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

domestic and overseas infrastructure requirements and posture of U.S. forces; and requires a report on bulk fuel management strategies in the Indo-Pacific to meet current and future requirements.

In partnership with the Government Accountability Office, the bill leverages their expertise to assist the subcommittee with continued oversight on topics that include F-35 operations and sustainment, Air Force use of contract air support services, and aviation and ship maintenance. The previous reports and analytical work produced by GAO helped inform the Readiness mark and I'd like to take this opportunity to thank the members of the GAO's Defense Capabilities and Management team for their support of this subcommittee's oversight work.

Next, the health and safety of our military and civilian personnel remain a priority for this subcommittee. Following a review of a number of fatal ground vehicle training mishaps, the subcommittee is concerned that the Department's approach to collecting, reporting, and analyzing vehicle mishap data may be insufficient and hampers the ability to share lessons learned or put in place mitigations to prevent future mishaps. To that end, the bill includes a reporting requirement that will help clarify responsibilities for collecting and analyzing mishap data, how data is being used to identify mishap trends, and actions the Department is taking to standardize data collection.

In addition to concerns with ground vehicle mishaps, the committee has identified critical failures and safety issues in the munitions enterprise. To start addressing these concerns, the bill requires a report on munitions safety waivers and mishaps, an assessment of the resilience of the munitions enterprise, and clarifies the role and authority of the Chairman of the Defense Explosives Safety Board.

The bill also supports the civilian workforce of the Department of Defense by addressing a pay disparity affecting the Department's wage-grade civilian workforce and including non-title 5 employees who were left out of last year's Paid Parental Leave provision.

This year's NDAA also begins a unified, whole-of-government approach that leverages the best attributes of the government and commercial fleets to increase resiliency in our maritime logistics. The bill includes several provisions, that together, establish a National Maritime Logistics Fleet approach by strengthening U.S.-flagged vessel requirements for the transportation of military cargo and fuels, creating a Tanker Security Program to address the shortfall in U.S.-flagged, U.S.-crewed tankers, and requiring the Navy to initiate an affordable, domestic built sealift ship. Strengthening our maritime logistics will also enhance our military's capabilities by improving the over-arching defense industrial base that supports each branch of our armed services.

Additionally, this year's NDAA supports the missions at Travis and Beale Air Force Bases in my district. The funds authorized in this bill will support the new KC-46 mission at Travis Air Force Base and enable Beale Air Force Base to continue to support intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance (ISR) and multi-domain operations.

I'm also pleased this NDAA includes a 3 percent pay raise for our troops and includes language from two of my bills, H.R. 2617, the Occupational and Environmental Transparency Health Act, to require the DOD and VA to

retroactively update records based on information contained in the Burn Pit Registry, since many veterans' health records do not account for their exposures, and H.R. 4710, the Pharmaceutical Independence Long-Term Readiness Reform Act, to require the DOD to identify the vulnerabilities faced by our country's dependence on Chinese pharmaceuticals and the steps needed to secure the supply chain.

This bill helps advance our military's near-term readiness goals and drives the Department to plan for and take action against long-term threats, and with that, I urge my colleagues to support the FY21 NDAA.

CELEBRATING MARGARET AND
SYLVESTER WALORSKI ON
THEIR 65TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

HON. JACKIE WALORSKI

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 22, 2020

Mrs. WALORSKI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Margaret and Sylvester "Syl" Walorski of Englewood, Colorado, on their 65th wedding anniversary.

Margaret and Syl met at a U.S.O. dance in the summer of 1951 just before Syl left for the Korean War. Placing their love in God's hands, Margaret and Syl sent each other countless letters during Syl's deployment and could not wait to be reunited. Syl returned to the U.S. and presented Margaret with a ring and a marriage proposal as soon as he could. They were married on August 22, 1955.

To finish school and secure a bright future for his family, Syl moved with Margaret to South Bend, Indiana, where they had two children. However, having briefly stayed at a military base in Colorado after being discharged, Syl felt drawn to the state's breathtaking sites, fresh air, and freedom. So in 1958 the couple moved to Englewood, Colorado, where they continued to grow their family and build a beautiful life together. A true embodiment of the American Dream, Margaret and Syl bought their first home in 1959 and have lived there ever since.

Sixty-five years of marriage is a marvelous accomplishment that speaks volumes about their compassion and the tremendous foundation of respect, gratitude, and faith they share with one another. Stronger together, Margaret and Syl have found the more love they have for each other, the more they have to offer others. They have always been active in their church and community, and their children watched as they led their lives in service to the Lord and as shining examples of the American spirit.

Their lasting commitment not only to each other but also to their five children, 15 grandchildren, and 17 great-grandchildren is rooted in their devotion and faithfulness. Having dedicated themselves to teaching their children strong American values, like working hard and giving back to those in need, they have touched the lives of countless people in their community and across the country. I feel blessed to know such compassionate, tenacious, and whole-hearted people who make this nation and the world a better place with everything they do.

Madam Speaker, I would like to extend my sincerest congratulations to Aunt Margaret,

Uncle Syl, and their entire family. It is my hope that their love continues to grow stronger with each passing year.

HONORING THE RETIREMENT OF
MASTER GUNNERY SERGEANT
RONGALETT D. GREEN, UNITED
STATES MARINE

HON. J. FRENCH HILL

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 22, 2020

Mr. HILL of Arkansas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Rongalett D. Green, Master Gunnery Sergeant, United States Marine Corps, who will retire from that organization after over 30 years of distinguished service to our country; August 6, 1990 through September 30, 2020. The mission of the United States Marine Corps is as America's expeditionary force in readiness since 1775, the U.S. Marines are forward deployed to win our Nation's battles swiftly and aggressively in times of crisis. We fight on land, sea and air, as well as provide forces and detachments to naval ships and ground operations.

Master Gunnery Sergeant Green currently serves with Manpower and Reserve Affairs, at the Promotions Branch. She is the Senior Enlisted Staff Non-commissioned Officer, responsible for the Special Selection Board for Officer Promotion Packages.

Master Gunnery Sergeant (MGySgt) Rongalett "Ronnie" Green, of Little Rock, Arkansas, enlisted in the Marine Corps, in 1990 as a 0151 (0111, Administrative Chief). Following basic training and military occupational school, she has served at each level of administration, such as: Squadron, Battalion, Consolidated Administrative Center, Staff Secretary, and Group. During her career, she participated in military training exercises, in Japan and South Korea, has two successful tours as a Marine Corps Drill instructor, at both recruit training depots, Parris Island, South Carolina and San Diego, California, training male and female recruits.

MGySgt Green spent two years, at Marine Corps Forces Europe, where she attended the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) School. She has participated in two deployments, Marine Central Command, Forward located in Djibouti, Africa (OIF) and Afghanistan (OEF). MGySgt Green served as the Senior Enlisted Advisor and Security Manager at Marine Corps University, Quantico, VA. MGySgt Green served on Capitol Hill as a 2015 Marine Corps Congressional Fellow in the U.S. Senate, and later became the Senior Enlisted Advisor to the Legislative Director to the Commandant, Marine Corps Office of Legislative Affairs. She was the Senior Enlisted Advisor for the White House Military Office (WHMO).

She has a Bachelor's Degree, in Human Resources with the University of Maryland University College, a Master's of Science Degree, in Organizational Leadership, an Executive certificate in Strategic Human Resources Leadership with Cornell University, and currently studying for a certificate in Project Management at Syracuse University.

MGySgt Green's awards and decorations include: The Presidential Service Badge, Meritorious Service Medal (x2); Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal; Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal (x3); Navy Unit

Commendation; Navy Meritorious Unit Commendation; Marine Corps Good Conduct Medal (x9); National Defense Service Medal (x2); Afghanistan Campaign Medal; Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal; Sea Service Deployment Ribbon (x4); Marine Corps Drill Instructor Ribbon (x2); NATO Medal ISAF—Afghanistan; Certificate of Commendation; Letter of Commendation; Letter of Appreciation (x6); and Meritorious Mast (x3).

MGySgt Green's candid and transparent message is "challenge the odds and strive for greatness, and this will only happen if you can get out of your own way". Every day while serving on active duty, my mission is to "serve and take care of others, people on my left and right, because we are a team and they in turn will take care of me."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DAN NEWHOUSE

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 22, 2020

Mr. NEWHOUSE. Madam Speaker, due to unforeseen travel delays, I regrettably missed roll call votes as indicated below.

Had I been present, I would have voted nay on rollcall No. 139; nay on rollcall No. 140; nay on rollcall No. 141; nay on rollcall No. 142; and nay on rollcall No. 143.

REMEMBERING THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF ENTERTAINER AND PUBLIC SERVANT SHIRLEY D. LOVE

HON. CAROL D. MILLER

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 22, 2020

Mrs. MILLER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to posthumously recognize, Mr. Shirley Love. Shirley was born to Earl and Winona Love on May 15, 1933. The name "Shirley" was suggested by the Love's family nurse, for his resemblance to her husband, Shirley Donnelly. Shirley Donnelly was a popular West Virginia newspaper columnist during the 1930's; unbeknownst to Earl and Winona at the time, their naming of their child not only passed on the uniqueness of the Shirley namesake but also a destiny for media greatness.

Shirley Love always had a phenomenal voice. Before he was entertaining countless West Virginians on Radio & TV, he used his voice to serve God every Sunday in Oak Hill United Methodist Church's Choir. The owner of WOAY in the early 1950's was Robert Thomas. He was a member of the church's congregation and always paid close attention to the charm of Shirley's voice. After Shirley graduated Collins High School in 1952, Robert Thomas offered him a once-in-a-life-time opportunity as an announcer on his Network. Shirley accepted and quickly became the face of WOAY TV & Radio.

Shirley served WOAY and entertained the people of West Virginia from 1952 to 1997. He was best known for becoming one of Southern West Virginia's first TV nightly news anchors. He also hosted several programs through WOAY, including Friday Night Barn Dance,

West Virginia Band Stand, and Saturday Night Wrestling. Of these, Saturday Night Wrestling was the most popular. Shirley kept audiences watching for decades through the way he handled fan interviews and intense competitor interactions.

Shirley was appointed to represent West Virginia's Senate District 11 in 1994 by Governor Caperton. He later retired from WOAY in 1997 and began to focus fully on public service rather than entertainment. Between 1994 and 2008, Shirley was elected and subsequently re-elected to Senate District 11 three times. He was later elected to the West Virginia House of Delegates from 2016 to 2018. Between both Chambers, Shirley selflessly served the people of Fayette County in the West Virginia Legislature for sixteen years. I had the honor of working along side him in the House of Delegates. I witnessed first-hand his integrity, honesty, and straight forwardness in the Legislature. He was truly a man of the people.

A list of Shirley's other accomplishments includes—One of West Virginia's Representatives to the National Democratic Convention from 1972 to 2016, Fayette County Democratic Executive Committee Member, West Virginia State Democratic Executive Committee Member, Member of the West Virginia Broadcasting Hall of Fame, one of Saturday Night Live's first guests in America, a lifetime member of the Oak Hill United Methodist Church, husband, and father to three children.

May God bless Shirley Dean Love. I wish I could thank him for all he did for the great State of West Virginia. He will always be remembered by his family, friends, and the countless people he impacted throughout his life. I send my sincerest condolences to his wife, children, and grandchildren.

TRIBUTE TO NOHA KOLKAILAH—CALIFORNIA'S 24TH CONGRESSIONAL WOMEN OF THE YEAR

HON. SALUD O. CARBAJAL

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 22, 2020

Mr. CARBAJAL. Madam Speaker, each year, through the Women of the Year Award, my office extends special recognition to women on the Central Coast who have made a difference in our community. I would like to recognize one outstanding Women of the Year Award recipient, Noha Kolkailah of Arroyo Grande, California.

Noha currently serves as the Principal and Director of Olive Grove Charter School in San Luis Obispo. She has been a fierce champion for education and social justice for many years. After the 2016 election, Noha mobilized the Muslim community to speak out for a positive and just future for all people at the Women's March SLO. The following year, she organized a "Get to Know Your Muslim Neighbors" event attended by over 800 people, advocating for compassion, kindness, commitment to diversity and unity, global awareness, and responsibility. She also helped start the Muslim Student Association at Cal Poly.

Noha founded the Peace Academy of the Sciences and Arts, which offers an enriching summer program for children ages 6 to 11, with a focus on self-awareness, global citizen-

ship, social justice, and environmental awareness. Through real-world applications, students are empowered to learn more about each other, embrace differences, and learn how to build on each other's strengths in a way that inspires creative innovation.

Despite experiencing prejudice, Noha remains a compassionate advocate for a world in which we can co-exist in peace and harmony, and leads with her heart, courage and kindness. She is a strong Muslim woman and she is not afraid to speak her truth, setting the example for others to do the same.

Her work on the Central Coast in educating the community at large on the issues marginalized communities face, her tireless efforts to bring people together in understanding and accepting differences, and her resilience in facing adversity with grace make Noha a wonderful asset to our community. As a champion for youth, women, and the marginalized, we are so lucky to have Noha in our district. I ask all Members to join me today in honoring an exceptional woman of California's 24th Congressional District, Noha Kolkailah, for her incredible service to her community.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. GARY J. PALMER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 22, 2020

Mr. PALMER. Madam Speaker, I was absent from the House and missed votes on 7/20/20 and 7/21/20 because I was in quarantine after potential exposure to someone with COVID-19.

Had I been present, I would have voted NAY on Roll Call No. 139; NAY on Roll Call No. 140; NAY on Roll Call No. 141; NAY on Roll Call No. 142; NAY on Roll Call No. 143; NAY on Roll Call No. 144; NAY on Roll Call No. 145; NAY on Roll Call No. 146; NAY on Roll Call No. 147; NAY on Roll Call No. 148; NAY on Roll Call No. 149; NAY on Roll Call No. 150; YEA on Roll Call No. 151; and NAY on Roll Call No. 152.

TRIBUTE TO REV. DR. C.T. VIVIAN

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 22, 2020

Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, C.T. Vivian was a key member of Dr. King's leadership group at SCBC during the height of the movement. He began his activism in Peoria, Illinois and as many others talented activist oriented individuals did, he found his way to Dr. King and became a valued member of the team.

Rev. C.T. was a fiery orator who lead marches, motivated and inspired crowds and was activity engaged in strategy development. He was viciously attacked by an Alabama Sheriff, but held his ground. C.T., as we fondly called him, came to Chicago and helped develop the Black Strategy Center with Dr. Archie Hargraves, Chester Robinson, Rev. Jesse Jackson and others.

I got to know Rev. Vivian in 1975, when a group of us spent a month in Nairobi, Kenya

on a study colloquium for a doctoral dissertation writing. Rev. Vivian spent the rest of preaching developing social change programs and being engaged in activities designed to help make the work a better place in which to live. Living during the same time as Rev. C.T. Vivian and knowing him and his work has been gratifying and inspirational.

He was a great contributor to positive change in America and may he rest in peace.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BEN RAY LUJÁN

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 22, 2020

Mr. LUJÁN. Madam Speaker, during rollcall vote No. 148 on H.R. 6395, I mistakenly recorded my vote as Yes when I should have voted No.

WILLIAM M. (MAC) THORNBERRY NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2021

SPEECH OF

HON. PETER A. DeFAZIO

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 20, 2020

Mr. DeFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, I will vote in support of H.R. 6395, the William M. (Mac) Thornberry National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) for Fiscal Year (FY) 2021. Make no mistake: I have opposed NDAA legislation in previous years, and I still have concerns about a number of provisions included in this year's legislation, but this year's Democratic-led legislation also contains numerous policy priorities that I strongly support.

First, this legislation grants our men and women in uniform a well-deserved pay raise of 3 percent. This is the very least we can do for those who continue to make extraordinary sacrifices for our country.

As Chair of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, I fought to successfully include vital provisions important to Oregon coastal communities. This includes the Maritime Transportation System Emergency Relief Act, which authorizes the Maritime Administration to provide financial assistance to stabilize and ensure the reliable functioning of the U.S. Maritime Transportation System in the event of a national emergency or disaster, as well as the Elijah E. Cummings Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2020, legislation to authorize funds for, reinforce, and support the United States Coast Guard.

Given the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee's jurisdiction over the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), I am proud that this legislation makes a long-overdue correction to ensure that the more than 45,000 FAA employees, as well as VA and other federal civilian employees who were inexcusably left out of last year's bill, receive twelve weeks of paid parental leave. I am also pleased that this legislation prohibits the Department of Defense from excluding any civilian employees from their collective bargaining rights.

As a long-time advocate for strengthening Congress's constitutional authority to declare

war and limiting executive authority to engage in armed conflict without Congress's consent, I strongly support this bill's provisions to prohibit U.S. participation in the Saudi-led coalition's war in Yemen without congressional authorization. I also voted in strong support of an amendment which was adopted to prohibit President Trump's dangerous and unnecessary proposals to initiate new nuclear weapons testing.

Given President Trump's ongoing and disturbing use of force on peaceful protesters exercising their First Amendment rights—including his use of National Guard service members to quell peaceful protesters outside the White House—I am pleased that an amendment which I voted for, and which was adopted, will add crucial oversight and transparency guardrails when a President deploys active duty military within the United States. I am also a strong supporter of this legislation's provision to require federal law enforcement officers deployed in response to public protests to visibly display their name and agency on their uniform. This requirement is especially crucial given Trump's appalling use of unidentifiable federal agents and unmarked vehicles to detain peaceful protesters in Portland, Oregon.

I am pleased this legislation includes provisions to bolster our country's COVID-19 response, including granting important funding for the Maritime Security Program (MSP) to enable MSP carriers to keep their ships fully crewed despite the lack of cargo as a result of COVID-19. To further increase our country's pandemic preparedness and response, this legislation establishes a Pandemic Preparedness and Resilience National Security Fund and provides additional funding to the Department of Defense's (DOD's) Cooperative Threat Reduction Program to focus on detecting and confronting biological threats. I also strongly support an amendment—which I cosponsored—to ensure the president finally uses the Defense Production Act to its full extent in order to meet our country's most critical needs to combat COVID-19, including securing vital personal protective equipment, testing supplies, and more for our frontline healthcare workers and citizens in Oregon and across the country.

Furthermore, this legislation accelerates the closure of the Guantanamo Bay detention facility by lifting a restriction on transfer of current detainees. This unnecessary prison—estimated to be the most expensive in the world—costs approximately \$540 million each year to house 40 prisoners and has been used as a top recruiting tool by terrorists. This prison has been a black eye for the U.S., eroding relationships with our allies, undermining U.S. missions abroad, and putting U.S. troops and citizens at risk of retaliation.

While Congress must do much more to achieve racial justice in this country, H.R. 6395 takes first steps to move closer to this goal. I am pleased that H.R. 6395 takes the long-overdue action of requiring the DOD to change the names of all military bases and infrastructure named for Confederate individuals within one year, prohibits display of the Confederate flag on DOD installations, and adds diversity requirements for DOD military and civilian personnel.

This legislation includes hundreds-of-millions in funding for the construction of additional housing and barracks for training and enlisted

personnel, as well as for oversight and improvement of the Military Housing Privatization Initiative (MHPI) program. The bill also includes a number of provisions to support the education of military dependent students, childcare services for military dependent children, and maternity uniforms for pregnant servicemembers. The NDAA also continues Congress's work to address the military's culture of sexual misconduct by including provisions to enhance the prevention of and response to incidents of sexual trauma.

Far too many of our veterans, especially those that served in Iraq and Afghanistan, are grappling with the serious medical complications linked to burn pits. While I believe Congress can and must do more to care for these veterans, I am pleased that this legislation takes modest steps to improve the identification of and care for veterans exposed to burn pits.

I am also pleased this bill includes provisions to assist student loan borrowers who have privately held debt, providing \$10,000 in immediate assistance to pay down the student loan. These students received no financial relief under the CARES Act. This provision will ensure the 200,000 servicemembers who owe nearly \$3 billion in student loan debt receive some form of student debt relief during the pandemic.

This bill includes necessary provisions that help to address PFAS and PFOA contamination on military bases that pose a public health threat to our military members and Americans living near installations. It requires the DOD to make public vital information about the level of PFAS contaminates in drinking water and groundwater at these sites. Although more can always be done to protect our environment, the bill makes an effort to fund climate change research initiatives and includes several public lands bills that will help to preserve and protect parts of America's wilderness for generations to come. It also makes strides toward protecting our most spectacular natural treasures, like ensuring the area around the Grand Canyon will not be polluted or scarred by mining.

While I strongly support many provisions in this year's NDAA, I believe this legislation should have included additional provisions to rein in our bloated and wasteful defense spending, take back Congress's constitutional war powers authority, and more.

I believe this legislation could have made responsible cuts to our defense budget without jeopardizing the safety of our troops or undermining our national security. For years, Congress has continued to increase the Pentagon's budget despite overwhelming evidence of its waste and abuse of taxpayer money. That's why I supported an amendment to responsibly reduce the Pentagon budget while retaining exceptions to protect service members, civilian employees, and the vital Defense Health Program from this reduction.

In particular, I have always opposed the DOD's Overseas Contingency Operations (OCO) account, a fiscally irresponsible fund that is not counted in the budget, recklessly adds to our mounting debt, and has no congressional/oversight. OCO is a Pentagon slush fund that gives a blank check to fund endless wars that Congress hasn't authorized. I will continue fighting to finally eliminate this irresponsible fund.

I have long supported a financial audit of the Pentagon. Unlike every other federal

agency, the DOD has yet to pass a financial audit. For two years in a row, the Pentagon has spectacularly failed full audits, both of which highlighted numerous examples of waste and abuse. It is ridiculous to provide the Pentagon a massive spending increase—as this bill does—when the Pentagon cannot even account for how it spends taxpayer money. That's why I offered an amendment to require and incentivize each DOD component to pass an audit by FY25. Unfortunately, my amendment did not receive a vote.

Along with Yemen, I believe this legislation should have included more provisions to take back Congress's constitutional war powers authority. That's why I cosponsored an amendment to prevent the president from using unauthorized force against Iran and voted in support of an amendment to accelerate withdrawal of U.S. troops from Afghanistan. I also believe this legislation should have repealed the long-outdated 2001 and 2002 authorizations for the use of military force (AUMFs), as well as prohibited funding for the deployment of dangerous low-yield nuclear weapons. However, I am encouraged that this year's House Defense Appropriations bill repeals both the 2001 and 2002 AUMFs and prevents use of funds for any unauthorized use of force against Iran.

I am also disappointed that several amendments I supported were not made in order, including amendments to add several diseases to the VA's list of presumptive diseases connected to Agent Orange, to curb the Pentagon's 1033 program that transfers surplus military equipment to local law enforcement agencies, to block the Trump administration's cruel ban on transgender individuals serving in the military, and my amendment to abolish the military draft. I also believe this legislation could have done far more to prevent the president from raiding billions more in funding for his unnecessary, ineffective border wall.

The bottom line is that fiscal responsibility and accountability at the DOD would allow for taxpayer funds to be better spent supporting the needs of our troops, meeting our obligations to veterans, and ensuring our legitimate defense needs are prioritized while also bolstering long-underfunded domestic priorities. I strongly encourage the Senate to keep the strong House NDAA provisions and not water the bill down.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. HARLEY ROUDA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 22, 2020

Mr. ROUDA. Madam Speaker, at the advice of the Office of the Attending Physician, I voted on agreeing to Amendment No. 29 offered by Rep. TAKANO printed in H. Rept. 116-457, on the Motion to Recommit with Instructions to H.R. 6395, and passage of H.R. 6395 by proxy pursuant to section 3(c) of House Resolution 965 and in accordance with regulation C.6. Due to this recommendation, I was unable to vote on agreeing to Amendment No. 11 offered by Rep. Dean printed in H. Rept. 116-457. Had I been present or been permitted to vote by the Office of the Clerk or the Office of the Attending Physician, I would have voted yea on rollcall No. 149.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MARTHA ROBY

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 22, 2020

Mrs. ROBY. Madam Speaker, I was unable to vote on Monday, July 20 due to a family medical emergency. Had I been present I would have voted as follows: "nay" on rollcall No. 153; "nay" on rollcall No. 154; "nay" on rollcall No. 155; and "yea" on rollcall No. 156.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate of February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Thursday, July 23, 2020 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

JULY 28

10 a.m.

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

Subcommittee on Communications, Technology, Innovation, and the Internet

To hold hearings to examine the PACT Act and Section 230, focusing on the impact of the law that helped create the internet and an examination of proposed reforms for today's online world.

SD-106

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

To hold hearings to examine the development and deployment of large-scale carbon dioxide management technologies in the United States, including technological and natural carbon removal, carbon utilization, and carbon storage.

SD-366

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

To hold an oversight hearing to examine COVID-19 financial relief packages.

VTC

Committee on the Judiciary

Subcommittee on Intellectual Property

To hold hearings to examine how the DMCA contemplates limitations and exceptions like fair use.

SD-226

10:15 a.m.

Committee on Finance

To hold hearings to examine protecting the reliability of the U.S. medical sup-

ply chain during the COVID-19 pandemic.

SD-215

2:30 p.m.

Committee on Armed Services

To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Lieutenant General D. VanHerck, USAF, to be general and Commander, United States Northern Command/Commander, North American Aerospace Defense Command, and General James H. Dickinson, USA, to be general and Commander, United States Space Command.

SD-106

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

Subcommittee on Regulatory Affairs and Federal Management

To hold hearings to examine modernizing telework, focusing on a review of private sector telework policies during the COVID-19 pandemic.

VTC

Joint Economic Committee

To hold hearings to examine reducing uncertainty and restoring confidence during the Coronavirus recession.

VTC

JULY 29

10 a.m.

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs

To hold hearings to examine the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau's semi-annual report to Congress.

WEBEX

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

To hold hearings to examine building a stronger and more resilient seafood sector.

SR-253

Committee on Environment and Public Works

To hold hearings to examine lessons learned from remote working during COVID-19, focusing on if the government can maximize use of leased space.

SD-106

Committee on the Judiciary

To hold hearings to examine certain pending nominations.

SD-226

10:15 a.m.

Committee on Finance

To hold hearings to examine WTO reform, focusing on making global rules work for global challenges.

SD-215

2:30 p.m.

Committee on Indian Affairs

To hold an oversight hearing to examine preparing to head back to class, focusing on how to safely reopen Bureau of Indian Education schools.

SD-628

3 p.m.

Committee on Veterans' Affairs

To hold hearings to examine VA telehealth during and beyond COVID-19, focusing on challenges and opportunities in rural America.

SD-G50

JULY 30

9:30 a.m.

Committee on Armed Services

To hold hearings to examine the nomination of Anthony J. Tata, of Virginia, to be Under Secretary of Defense for Policy.

SD-G50

AUGUST 4

2:30 p.m.

Committee on Armed Services

To hold hearings to examine the findings
and recommendations of the Cyber-
space Solarium Commission.

SD-106